

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTREAL 1585

ACTION

SECSTATE 09 OCTOBER 1974. QUOTE:

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1585

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: US-AUSTRALIAN TALKS ON USER CHARGES

AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND AUSTRALIA, THE
FOLLOWING IS AN AGREED PRESS STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE RELEASED
IN WASHINGTON:

QUOTE STATEMENT

U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS DISCUSS AIR NAVIGATION FACILITY
CHARGES

MONTREAL, OCTOBER -- DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES
AND AUSTRALIA MET IN MONTREAL ON OCTOBER 7 AND 8 TO RESUME
DISCUSSION OF THEIR AIR NAVIGATION FACILITY AND LANDING CHARGES
IMPOSED ON INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES. BOTH DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED
THE UNCERTAIN FINANCIAL CONDITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AIR
TRANSPORTATION AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF INFLATION IN FUEL
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AND OTHER COSTS.

THE TALKS, HELD AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES, DEALT PRINCIPALLY WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE AUSTRALIAN METHOD OF DETERMINING CHARGES IMPOSED ON INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES TO THE COST OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THESE CARRIERS. A REVIEW OF BOTH U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN COST ALLOCATION, CHARGING PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF COLLECTION WAS CONDUCTED.

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION INDICATED ITS STRONG DESIRE TO EXPLORE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE COST/CHARGE RELATIONSHIP FOR THE U.S. AIRLINES USING THE AUSTRALIAN FACILITIES AND TO AVOID, IF POSSIBLE, FURTHER INCREASES IN CHARGES. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION, IN REVIEWING ITS CHARGING SYSTEM, DID NOT ACCEPT THAT THERE WAS DISPARITY IN ITS COST/CHARGE RELATIONSHIP AND REITERATED THE POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO CHARGES FOR AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND AIRPORTS. HOWEVER, THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION WOULD REPORT THE VIEWS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE INFORMATION EXCHANGED AT AND SUBSEQUENT TO THIS SESSION HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. END STATEMENT
HARPER

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